

THE ECONOMY OF INDO-CHINA

remarkable specimens as to attract thither the Oceanographic Institute's researches.

The fishing banks off the coast of Cochin-China offer, in the not too distant future, a potentially thorny international problem. These banks have long been used by Cochin-Chinese fishermen without any particular rights. A bitter rivalry is imminent there unless a timely agreement first solves the problem, for the Pacific Coast suffers from a lack of fish.

Animal Husbandry

It is more than usually hard to get statistics of animal breeding because of the natives' perennial fear that their taxes may be raised if they do not underestimate their possessions. The most recent census (1931) gives 1,850,000 cattle, 2,070,000 buffaloes, 2,040,000 pigs* and 90,000 horses as the imposing array of the colony's animal wealth—but every writer on economics has his own figures. Impressive as it looks upon paper, these figures are very small for so thickly populated a country, since those regions which have the most inhabitants are the ones that are poorest in stock.

Climatic conditions, as well as the land's intensive cultivation, explain the lack of suitable pasturage in the deltas, but there is still much unused land in Upper and Middle Tonkin. Poverty and Buddha's injunctions against the killing of animals account for the incredibly low meat consumption—less than a kilo per person in the Tonkinese delta, and for the general undernourishment. Indo-China imports no meat so that the country may be said to raise—not all that it needs—but all that it consumes. An export trade could certainly be further developed.

Cambodia is the country best suited to cattle-raising, and possibly

the Laotian plateaux. During the War Paris thought of developing the refrigeration of meat in the colony, and the idea has survived as a possible export trade with the Philippines. High freight rates and those Islands' prohibitive tariff have at least temporarily checked such a development. Leather, because of its smaller freightage, might become a more profitable export to France.

The climate of Indo-China is not conducive to sheep-raising.

Attempts to acclimatize the Yunnanese steep, even under analogous conditions, have been a failure in Tonkin. Experiments in Laos have been conducted more with the thought of wool than **of nourishment**, but as yet the results are of too poor a quality to bear exportation.

Indo-Chinese horses could be greatly improved by